

Shoptalk

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A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

New Version of Shoptalk on the Web Check it Out — You Might Win the Raffle!!

Saving paper means saving trees! Ecology wants to "walk its talk," and that includes increasing the use of electronic publishing. Also, electronic publishing helps to save taxpayer dollars on printing and mailing costs. For these reasons, *Shoptalk* has a new, improved format for Internet users.

Electronic *Shoptalk* contains the same articles that are published in the paper version. The electronic publication however, gives users the opportunity to interact with the information. You can easily scan or search *Shoptalk* to quickly find the information you need. You can print an article or the entire issue. Also, you can easily link to other valuable resources.

Related articles and e-mail contact to Ecology staff are just one click away!

To encourage you to look at electronic *Shoptalk*, Ecology is sponsoring a raffle.

You could win a pass to your choice of Ecology's Generator Workshops, held in locations throughout the state each January (\$40.00 value). Here's how:

1. Go to *Shoptalk* on the Internet at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr/shoptalk/index.html>.
2. To experience the new interactive *Shoptalk*, click the on-line link.
3. Click on the feedback form and give us your comments. The form should only take about 5 minutes to complete.
4. To subscribe to electronic *Shoptalk* and change your subscription from the paper version to the electronic version click on "Subscribe."

If you choose the electronic version, you will receive an e-mail message with a direct link to the Internet site for future issues of *Shoptalk*.

5. Completing the feedback form will allow you to enter the raffle. You will be eligible for the raffle whether you subscribe to the electronic *Shoptalk* or if you opt to continue receiving the paper copy. Either way, we want your comments.

The new electronic version of *Shoptalk* has all the information you need right at your fingertips – try it and subscribe! If you have any questions about electronic *Shoptalk*, e-mail Joanne Phillipson at joph461@ecy.wa.gov or call (360) 407-6740.



Eventually, the Internet is expected to become the primary way of distributing *Shoptalk*, although paper copies will still be available.

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The Hazardous Waste Services Directory is Available On-line!

If you need help finding service providers to assist you in managing your dangerous wastes, go to: <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/pubs/98412.pdf>. For more information, contact Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or dzin461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sustainable Businesses: Thriving in the New Millennium

Forty to fifty million Americans (about 25% of the adult population) are applying social and environmental values to their purchasing and investing choices, according to an article posted by Co-op America at <http://www.coop-america.org/business/b44million.html>. Recent studies show that these consumers are supporting companies that deliver on their social and environmental values. When price and quality are comparable, a business with a strong environmental record gets the edge.

This research suggests that building environmental values into business operations is a key to long term success. This is one element of the broader concept of "sustainable business." Defined in a general way, a "sustainable business" is one which supports the vitality of the economy, the environment and the community. This means engaging in business practices which create economic benefits while reducing environmental impacts.

Examples of sustainable business practices include:

- ✓ Eliminating the use of toxic substances in operating processes.
- ✓ minimizing harmful emissions to air and water.
- ✓ Using raw materials from renewable resources or recycled materials.
- ✓ Using energy from renewable sources.
- ✓ Offering products and services which reduce reliance on persistent toxic substances, promoting reuse and recycling, and maximizing energy efficiency.
- ✓ Promoting equal opportunity and involving people in decisions that affect them.

In practice, these criteria can be hard to fulfill. But even now, a small group of businesses are

increasing profits by shifting towards sustainable practices. Large companies such as IKEA and Nike are applying these concepts to improve the quality of their products, develop new market niches, increase competitiveness, and improve their public image. In addition, smaller companies, such as a Portland-based lighting manufacturing facility, are finding how sustainable practices can help them become the businesses that will be successful and profitable in the new millennium.

Chemicals in Washington State

The Department of Ecology is pleased to make available Chemicals in Washington State, 1998 Summary Report. The report, which replaces the annual Washington State Toxic Release Inventory Summary Report first published in 1992, has a new name and a new look. The report has been expanded to include important information on the inventory of hazardous chemicals stored all across the State of Washington.

As in previous reports, this document contains toxic release inventory information subject to reporting requirements of Sections 311-313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. The expanded information in this report will keep all Washingtonians better informed and up-to-date on the current status of toxic chemical management as reported by facilities in our state. This report is available on Ecology's website at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr/epcra/index.html>. For more information about this report and other resources available through Ecology's Hazardous Substance Information Office, call toll-free 1-800-633-7585.

Ecology Helps Painting Contractors Avoid Pollution

There are about 4,000 registered painting contractors in Washington State, and more that are not registered. The environmental impacts of thousands of painting operations in the state add up! Increased awareness and improved practices can save money, enhance the health of Washington's residents, and conserve our natural resources.

Each year, Ecology's hazardous waste business assistance service works with a particular industry to help reduce its environmental impacts. This year, Ecology will be working with painting contractors in a friendly, non-enforcement manner to help painters understand how to "do the right thing," and save money, too.

The purpose of this project is to share information with painting contractors statewide about:

- ◆ Saving money through practical improvements
- ◆ Legal responsibility for waste generated at job sites
- ◆ Transporting wastes and flammable materials
- ◆ What to do with wash water at a site with a septic system
- ◆ Determining whether or not a waste is hazardous
- ◆ Managing leftover paints so they don't become a problem

For more information, please contact Scott Lamb at (425) 649-7268 or e-mail slam461@ecy.wa.gov

Saving Salmon and Money

A recent economic study shows how environmentally-friendly business tactics can increase profitability. "Saving Salmon, Saving Money: Innovative Business Leadership in the Northwest," shows that in the last seven years, 137 Northwest businesses saved a total of \$42 million by reusing and recycling products.

To learn more about this study, refer to the article in the *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce* by Ragan Willis, at <http://www.djc.com/news/enviro/11003464.html>

Apply for the 2000 Governor's Award for Achievement in Pollution Prevention

Is your company, school, or government agency a leader in pollution prevention? Do you engage in sustainable business practices? If your answer to either of these questions is "yes," you are eligible to win the Governor's Award for Achievement in Pollution Prevention.

Pollution prevention means reducing hazardous emissions or wastes at the source, before they are generated. Beginning this year, the focus of the Governor's Award is expanding to recognize and reward facilities using sustainable business practices, which can go beyond pollution prevention.

The Governor's Award will spotlight the environmental aspects of sustainability: toxics reduction, waste reduction, resource conservation, and product stewardship. Facilities that engage in any of the following sustainable practices are encouraged to apply:

Toxics Reduction

- ✓ Reducing or eliminating the use of toxic materials
- ✓ Reducing or eliminating persistent, bio-accumulative toxins (PBTs)

Waste Reduction

- ✓ Reducing or eliminating the generation of solid and/or hazardous waste at the source
- ✓ Reducing or eliminating emissions to air or water at the source

Resource Conservation

- ✓ Increasing the use of renewable and recycled materials
- ✓ Reducing energy use or using renewable energy sources
- ✓ Reducing water use

Product Stewardship

- ✓ Take-back programs
- ✓ Minimizing the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle

Nominations for the eighth annual Governor's Award will be accepted through June 19, 2000. Award winners will be selected by a panel of judges that includes previous winners, pollution prevention experts, and representa-

tives from labor, business, community and environmental groups.

Governor Locke will present awards to the winners in a special ceremony at the State Capitol in September of 2000 – and some winners will be featured in future issues of *Shoptalk*! If you would like to make a nomination or request additional information, contact Joanne Phillipson at (360) 407-6740 or e-mail joph461@ecy.wa.gov.

The application brochure is available on-line at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr/p2govaward.html>.

New Requirements for Transporting Your Waste

Do you know:

- ? Transporters are handling your waste shipments at transfer facilities that operate under minimal hazardous waste management standards?
- ? You are liable for spills that might result from poor transporter practices because of your "cradle-to-grave" responsibility?

Ecology examined statewide transporter practices in a special project over the last two years and learned that potentially serious environmental problems exist. Transporters handle large volumes of hazardous waste at transfer facilities that are currently subject to minimum regulation. In 1998, wastes transported through Washington included 236 million pounds of hazardous waste from Washington generators, and 34 million pounds of hazardous waste from out-of-state generators.

Much of this waste is handled at transporter-operated 10-day transfer facilities located at shoreline ports and at highway and rail terminals.

To ensure that waste is handled safely at transfer facilities in Washington, Ecology proposed new transfer facility operating standard requirements including:

- ✓ registration
- ✓ 10 day storage records
- ✓ site security
- ✓ inspections
- ✓ training
- ✓ contingency and preparedness plans
- ✓ secondary containment

New generator requirements are being proposed for packaging state-only dangerous waste in preparation for transport. Under the old rules, a state-only dangerous waste that is not also a federal DOT hazardous material can be packaged in any non-leaking container, even a food-grade drum. The new rules will require state-only dangerous waste to be packaged in a container that is equivalent to DOT 49 CFR technical specifications. New container-marking requirements and shipping descriptions for state-only dangerous waste are also being proposed.

The new rules, if adopted as scheduled will go into effect in June, and can be viewed at Ecology's website at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/html>. For additional information about generator and/or transporter requirements contact your nearest Ecology regional office.

Information About "Drywells" Available On-line

A new website has information about what injection wells are, how they are handled in Washington State, and some of the hazards of using them. The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program is concerned with wells (known as "drywells" and/or septic systems) used to dispose of waste fluids.

If your company uses a type of underground system of waste fluid disposal, visit the UIC site at http://www.wa.gov/ecology/wq/grndwtr/uic/uic_index.html to learn more.

If you have questions, contact Mary Shaleen-Hansen at (360) 407-6143, or e-mail maha461@ecy.wa.gov.

Questions and Answers:

Q What types of lamps are included in the definition of universal waste?

A Lamps are scheduled to be added to Washington's universal waste rule in June 2000. Universal wastes are common wastes (such as batteries and lamps) that are generated by businesses, institutions, government and utilities. These wastes typically designate as a dangerous waste, but they may be managed under the streamlined universal waste management rules. Universal wastes must ultimately go to a recycling or TSD facility.

Universal waste lamps include, but are not limited to, fluorescent, mercury vapor, metal halide, high-pressure sodium and neon lamps. These lamps can contain hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, which may cause them to be a dangerous waste. Other types of lamps, such as incandescent lamps, may have hazardous properties, such as lead in the lamp base, which could cause them to be dangerous waste. These types of lamps can be managed as universal waste, too.

If you are unsure if the type of lamp you have is a potentially dangerous waste, you can: (1) check with the lamp manufacturer to find out the materials used in the lamp, or (2) assume that the lamps are dangerous waste and

manage them as universal waste, or (3) test the lamps using approved test methods, then manage them properly.

Q How will the universal waste rule affect my business, if I generate dangerous waste fluorescent lamps and no other dangerous waste?

A The requirements of the rule depend on how many waste lamps are generated and what the local regulations are for management of the lamps. If you generate no other dangerous waste, the quantity of dangerous waste lamps generated is going to determine your regulatory status. If you generate more than 220 pounds of lamps at one time or during one month, then you will be a regulated generator and should manage the lamps as universal waste to avoid full regulation (220 pounds of lamps equals approximately 400, four-foot fluorescent tubes). If you generate less than 220 pounds of lamps, then you are considered a SQG and subject to the less-stringent SQG regulations.

As a SQG, you can choose to manage the lamps either as universal waste - or as SQG dangerous waste.

Check with your local solid waste or hazardous waste program for SQG recycling and disposal options.

Ecology Contacts

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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Shoptalk

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